



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/896,388

06/28/2001

Joachim P. Walser

020431.0755

1011

53184

7590

06/02/2006

i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC.
ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234

EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/896,388

Applicant(s)

WALSER ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-13 and 15-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/12/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed March 27, 2006.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 6, 14, 26-33, 48-71 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on March 27, 2006. Thus claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 are currently pending in this case.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on February 12, 2002 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see Applicant's Amendment, filed March 27, 2006, with respect to the Section 101 rejection of the claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 have been fully considered and are persuasive in light of the amendments to claims 1, 9, and 17-25. The Section 101 rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 has been withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments filed March 27, 2006, with respect to the Section 112, par 2 rejections of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The term "optimal", a relative a vague term appears in independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25. Thus the Section 112 rejection of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 is upheld.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "optimal", a vague and relative term appears in each of independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25. Thus, these claims fail to properly set for the metes and bounds of the invention. Independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 and their dependent claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, 15-16, and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fad et al (US 5,793,632) in view of Hartman et al (US 5,987,425).

10. Regarding claim 1 –

Fad discloses A method for generating a price schedule for one or more products, the method comprising:

generating a transition graph comprising a plurality of paths, each path comprising a plurality of states, each state having a price value, an inventory value, and a state value,

Art Unit: 3621

the transition graph being generated by repeating the following for a plurality of stages until a final stage is reached (e.g. fig 5, col 3 ln 12-52)

determining the price value of a successor state (e.g. fig. 5);

calculating the inventory value of the successor state using the price value and the

inventory value of a predecessor state (e.g. col 3 ln 12-52); and

calculating the state value of the successor state using the price value and the inventory value of the predecessor state (e.g. col 3 ln 40-50).

11. Fad does not disclose, but Hartman does, selecting an optimal path according to the state values of the states; and determining a price schedule from the optimal path (e.g. col 2 ln 2-22). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt and combine the teaching of Fad and Hartman to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

12. Regarding claims 2-5-

Harman discloses a method comprising quantizing the inventory value of each successor state; further comprising quantizing the price value of each successor state; wherein selecting the optimal path according to the state values comprises determining a state at the final stage having an optimal state value; and determining a path comprising a state of an initial stage and the state having the optimal state value; and further comprising eliminating a successor state in response to a constraint (e.g. col 2 ln 2-22).

Art Unit: 3621

13. As above, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt and combine the teaching of Fad and Hartman to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

14. Regarding claims 7-8 –

Hartman discloses a method wherein each state has a certainty value; and selecting the optimal path comprises determining a state at the final stage having a certainty value of a predetermined value; further comprising: defining a plurality of locations; estimating a demand forecast for the locations; calculating an expected number of unrealized sales at each location; adjusting the demand forecast in response to the expected number; determining a sales forecast from the demand forecast; and adjusting the inventory value of the successor state in response to the sales forecast (e.g. col 2 ln 2-22).

15. As above, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt and combine the teaching of Fad and Hartman to obtain the instant application in order to achieve greater flexibility in pricing according to the market.

16. Claim 9-13 and 15-25 are rejected under the same criteria as claims 1-5 and 7-8.

17. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part

Art Unit: 3621

of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

COS
05/17/06

Michael L. Sherr
PRIMARY EXAMINER